

Hello, my name is Brian Hartman and I am an assistant professor of actuarial science in the department of mathematics. As a member of the M in STEM, I am grateful for this focused and generous investment. We are really looking forward to the increased impact we will have on the state of Connecticut.

Our actuarial program is one of only 14 in the United States recognized as a Center of Actuarial Excellence by the Society of Actuaries. Being near to the insurance capital of the world means that approximately 60% of our students stay in Connecticut after graduation; building the already strong insurance sector. Our program currently has about 275 undergraduates and 70 graduate students and we are looking forward to those numbers growing through NextGen Connecticut.

Our students gain a theoretical foundation through their coursework and research. They also have the opportunity to work on applied problems with the actuarial industry through the Goldenson Actuarial Research Center. Corporations come to the center with projects and then partner with our students and faculty to accomplish them. The students gain valuable experience to prepare them for their careers. Through the center, our students helped six local small businesses improve their enterprise risk management. Because of the private endowment which funds the center, the small businesses did not have to pay anything for this analysis. The students helped these small businesses improve their chances of surviving through the next rough economy. In another project, the students worked with ING to improve their ability to model pension longevity risk. We are currently working on a long-term care insurance modeling project.

We would love to do more. Currently, the center is directed by a faculty member who is a full-time consultant at a local firm. We hope that through NextGen Connecticut, some of the extra faculty money can provide a full-time, tenure-track faculty member who can spend more time growing the center and expanding the opportunities for our students. Not only will that help the Connecticut economy directly through projects like the enterprise risk management for small businesses I mentioned, but also through preparing our students to actively contribute to the workforce immediately. 60% of our graduates stay in Connecticut, let's prepare them to make as big an impact as possible.

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